

What did I learn?

- Despite language barriers, smiles and gestures are universal forms of communication
- I was extremely humbled by the privilege of American healthcare. I realized how powerful education can be for a small, suffering community. A lot of children had rotten teeth or even lost some due to decay.
- A better appreciation for the environment
- Holding different standards for different people – we all improve at our own pace



What motivated me to select this project?

- Pre-occupational therapy track
- Interest in working with children and different disabilities
- Ability to strengthen my professional skills
- Learn more about collaboration and inclusion among another culture

GVI: Healthcare in Thailand

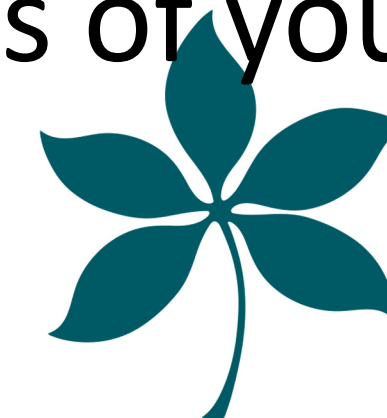
Project Description

Global Vision International arranges durational stays between 2 -12 weeks (I was a 4-week participant) within the community of Ban Nam Khem, a local town of Southern Thailand (Phang Nga). To improve public health, GVI focuses on teaching about health and well-being including dental hygiene and providing wellness checks (BMI, height, weight, blood pressure, etc.) GVI additionally partners with local elementary schools and the Camillian Center, a social center for disabilities.



What was transformational about my project?

- Greater self-confidence and independence – I have never traveled alone before or had the opportunity to dictate my own lesson plans prior to this trip
- Greater appreciation for other cultures, nature, and everyday life – prior to Thailand, I never fully appreciated traveling to another country and understanding another culture rather than seeing it as just a vacation
- Open to trying new things
- Learning how to be more patient
- Positive attitude of the “Land of Smiles” while overcoming adversity
- Ability to work hard and see the progress of your own work



Name: Tara Han

STEP Project Category: Community and Service Learning

STEP Faculty Mentor's Name: Ardine Nelson

Major: Psychology



Favorite Part of My Experience

- I most enjoyed connecting with so many people in such a short span of time. I made endless friendships with other volunteers, staff members, as well as locals.
- The kids were always happy and carefree
- In my spare time, I was extremely grateful to have the opportunity to experience staying in a floating bungalow in the heart of a lake of the Khao Sok National Park.



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Second-year Transformational
Experience Program